



CLAIMS

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1 1. A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container and an  
2 additional film container having a length of film wound in one of the containers and extending  
3 to the other, comprising the steps of:

4 (a) providing a length of film and attaching a free end to a film winding tool;

5 (b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a  
6 coil about the tool;

7 (c) before or after step (b), enclosing the coil in an additional film container so that  
8 the film extends through a film slot thereof; and

9 (d) removing the film winding tool.

1 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein a film end opposite to said free end is  
2 secured to the first film container.

1 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the film end opposite to said free end is  
2 secured to said first film container after step (c).

1 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the first film container is a conventional  
2 film patron having a central spool, the said film end opposite the free end being secured to the  
3 central spool.

1 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein at step (a) the length of film is provided  
2 wound in the first film container and extending through a film slot thereof, the film being  
3 unwound from the first film container as the film is wound onto the film winding tool.

1           6.     A method according to claim 1 utilizing an additional container which comprises  
2     a housing which is closed by an end cap, the method involving, at step (c), winding the film  
3     onto the film winding tool, followed by insertion of the tool having the film wound about the  
4     tool end into the additional film container.

1           7.     A method according to claim 6 wherein after removal of the film winding tool  
2     the end cap is secured to the housing.

1           8.     A method according to claim 1 wherein the tool end having the leading end of  
2     the film secured thereto is inserted into the additional film container, and the tool then rotated  
3     to wind the film into the additional container.

1           9.     A method according to claim 2 wherein at step (a) the length of film is a bulk  
2     roll of film, and wherein the method includes the step of cutting the wound film from the bulk  
3     roll after it has been wound onto the film winding tool.

1           10.    A method according to claim 9 wherein the first film container is a conventional  
2     film patrone having a central spool, the trailing end of the film which has been cut from the  
3     bulk roll constituting said film end opposite to said free end and being secured to a spool of the  
4     first film container.

1           11.    A method according to claim 1 utilizing an additional film container which  
2     comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a film slot  
3     therebetween, and a film winding tool aperture, the method involving the step of, in a film  
4     winding apparatus, before step (b) providing a first shell half on one side of the film winding

5 tool, followed by securing the second shell half to the first shell half with the film extending  
6 through the film slot, and then rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into the  
7 additional film container.

1 12. A method according to claim 11 comprising the further steps of withdrawing the  
2 tool from the film container and closing the tool winding aperture with a plug.

1 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the film is unwound from a bulk roll  
2 of film, and wherein the method includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it  
3 has been wound into the additional container.

1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the free end of the film cut from the  
2 bulk roll is secured to the first film container, the first film container being a conventional film  
3 patrone having a central spool to which the free end is secured.

1 15. A method according to claim 1 utilizing an additional film container which  
2 comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a film slot  
3 therebetween, the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step (b),  
4 removing the film winding tool, followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half  
5 shells, with the film extending from the film slot.

1 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the film is unwound from a bulk roll  
2 of film, and wherein the method includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it  
3 has been wound into the coil and before it is enclosed in the additional container.

1 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the first container is a conventional

2 film patrone having a central spool, the free end of the film cut from the bulk roll being  
3 secured to the central spool of the film patrone.

1 18. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of attaching a  
2 removable clip to secure the first film container and additional film container together.

1 19. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of inserting the  
2 assembly of first film container and additional film container into a package which is sealed to  
3 contain the film containers.

1 20. A film assembly when loaded according to the method of claim 1.

1 21. A camera when loaded with a film assembly according to claim 20.

1 22. A method of loading a film assembly into a camera having a pair of film  
2 chambers arranged on opposite sides of an exposure opening and a camera back which closes  
3 the film chambers comprising the steps of:

4 (a) providing a first film container;

5 (b) providing a length of film and attaching a free 5 end to a film winding tool;

6 (c) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil  
7 about the tool;

8 (d) before or after step (c), enclosing the coil in an additional film container so that  
9 the film extends through a film slot thereof;

10 (e) removing the film winding tool; and

11 (f) placing the film assembly in the camera with the containers in respective

12 chambers and closing the camera back.

1 23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the film carries pre—exposed latent  
2 images, the method involving at step (f) the additional step of ensuring that an alignment mark  
3 on the film is arranged in alignment with an alignment mark on the camera so as to ensure  
4 correct alignment of user—exposed images and pre—exposed images.

1 33. A method of film winding comprising the steps of:

2 (a) withdrawing the free end of a film from a first film cassette and attaching a film  
3 winding tool thereto;

4 (b) in a dark environment, rotating the film winding tool to wind the film out of the  
5 first film container around the film winding tool;

6 (c) before or after step (b), inserting the end of film winding tool having the film  
7 secured thereto into an open second spoolless film container;

8 (d) withdrawing the film winding tool; and

9 (e) attaching an end cap to the open end of the second film container to render this  
10 light-tight.

1 34. A method according to claim 33 wherein the film is wound out of the first film  
2 container onto the film winding tool, followed by insertion of the tool having the film wound  
3 about the tool into the second film container.

1 35. A method according to claim 33 wherein the tool end having the leading end of  
2 the film secured thereto is inserted into the second film container, and the tool then rotated to  
3 wind the film into the second container.

1           36.    A method according to claim 33 further comprising the step of attaching a  
2 removable clip to secure the first and second film containers together.

1           37.    A method according to claim 33 further comprising the step of inserting the film  
2 containers into a package which is sealed to contain the film containers.

1           38.    A method of loading film into a camera having a pair of film chambers arranged  
2 on opposite sides of an exposure opening, and a camera back which closes the chambers  
3 comprising the steps of:

4           (a)    withdrawing the free end of a film from a first film cassette and attaching a film  
5 winding tool thereto;

6           (b)    in a dark environment, rotating the film winding tool to wind the film out of the  
7 first film container around the tool;

8           (c)    before or after step (b), inserting the end of film winding tool having the film  
9 secured thereto into an open second spoolless film container;

10          (d)    attaching an end cap to the open end of the second film container to render this  
11 light-tight;

12          (e)    with the back open, inserting the first and second containers into the respective  
13 chambers with the film extending therebetween; and

14          (f)    closing the camera back.

1           39.    A method according to claim 38 wherein the film is wound out of the first film  
2 container onto the film winding tool, followed by insertion of the tool having the film wound  
3 about the tool into the second film container.

1           40.    A method according to claim 38 wherein the tool end having the leading end of  
2   the film secured thereto is inserted into the second film container, and the tool then rotated to  
3   wind the film into the second container.

1           41.    A method according to claim 38 wherein the camera includes a removable plate  
2   which closes the bottom of the chamber which receives the first container, the method further  
3   comprising the step of fitting the plate to close said chamber bottom.

1           42.    A method according to claim 41 wherein before step (e) an empty second  
2   container from a previous use of the camera is removed.